



TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT of SB 839**  
AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS AND PESTICIDE  
REGULATION IN THE STATE

February 9, 2021

**To:** Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Borer and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

**From:** Lori Brown, Executive Director, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of CTLCV, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **IN SUPPORT of SB 839** to expand the state's pesticide tracking system.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) currently uses an outdated paper filing system for applicator certifications, which makes it impossible to get real-time updates and access to accurate information about pesticide use in our state.

It is increasingly acknowledged that pesticides and chemicals pose significant health threats to humans and wildlife. Yet, they are poorly monitored or regulated as the types and classes of these toxic chemical continue to increase. To protect public health, we need to ensure complete, easily accessible documentation of these toxic chemicals.

According to a 2017 report by the CT Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), **enforcement and inspections for pesticide use in our state have fallen to a 15-year low.** This is unacceptable. We must drastically reform our pesticide tracking system and ensure that DEEP has the resources to maintain it.

In 2019, HB 5999 An Act Concerning Pesticide Regulation was voted out of the Environment Committee as well as the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee without any adjustments. HB 5999 would have dedicated certain funds specifically for use by the pesticide program as well as establish a "Pesticide Enforcement Account" to support inspection and enforcement activities.

SB 839 should include the CEQ recommendations that failed to make it over the finish line in 2019: **Establish a searchable electronic filing system and reinstate the environmental monitoring program. The legislation should also create a dedicated pesticide program fund.** This could generate up to \$3 million per year from pesticides registrations to fund increased staffing and inspections.

CTLCV urges the committee to **SUPPORT SB 839.** Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori Brown, Executive Director

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